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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 5157

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SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY OF NATIONAL PROPERTIES

FRANCISCO JAVIER ALEJO

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEURS HAS MET TWICE INFORMALLY WITH NATIONAL PROPERTIES (SEPNAL) SECRETARY JAVIER ALEJO, THE SECOND TIME AT ALEJO'S SUGGESTION. ALEJO IS A KEY CABINET MINISTER AND A PRINCIPAL ADVISOR TO THE PRES. THE FOLLOWING RECORDS SOME COMMENTS MADE BY ALEJO AND IMPRESSIONS OF HIM.

2. ON THIRD WORLD ISSUES

LUERS EXPLAINED THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE UNITED STATES IS ADDRESSING THE ISSUES RAISED BY THE PARIS PREPCON AND THE UPCOMING SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DRAWING ON THE SECRETARY'S RECENT SPEECHES. ALEJO AGREED WITH LUERS THAT THE ISSUES WERE COMPLICATED AND DISCUSSIONS WILL CONTINUE FOR MONTHS AND YEARS. HE EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THE USG COULD OVERCOME ITS RELUCTANCE TO STOCK WITH COMMODITY AGREEMENTS BUT RECOGNIZED THAT THE PRODUCERS THEMSELVES HAVE IN THE PAST BEEN MOST SERIOUS OFFENDERS OF SUCH AGREEMENTS.

3. ALEJO SAID THAT HE WOULD BE IN HIS PERSONAL, NOT
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OFFICIAL, CAPACITY THE MEXICAN REPRESENTATIVE AT THE "THIRD

WORLD FORUM" WHICH WOULD MEET IN MEXICO FOLLOWING THE CLUB OF ROME MEETING HERE. THE FORUM, WHICH WOULD HAVE "PRIVATE" REPRESENTATIVES FROM OVER ONE HUNDRED COUNTRIES, WILL PREPARE SOME DRAFT PROPOSALS THAT HE EXPECTS WILL LATER BE PICKED UP BY CERTAIN GOVERNMENTS FOR SUBMISSION TO THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UGA. THE PROPOSALS WILL COVER THE RANGE OF ISSUES UNDER THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER RUBRIC AND WILL INCLUDE A SPECIFIC PLAN ON INDEXING. LUERS STRESSED THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR STABILIZED EXPORT BARNINGS BUT, AS WE HAVE SAID REPEATEDLY, WE ARE OPPOSED TO INDEXING SINCE WE STILL BELIEVE IN MARKET FORCES. ALEJO INDICATED THAT SUPPORT FOR EXPORT EARNINGS STABILIZATION, AS REPRESENTED BY LOME DECLARATION, WAS A USEFUL STEP FORWARD. HE SAID THAT THE IMF FACILITY, HOWEVER, NEEDED TO BE GREATLY EXPANDED.

4. ATTITUDE OF EUROPEANS

ALEJO SAID THE EUROPEANS, PARTICULARLY THE FRENCH, ARE FAR LESS SUPPORTIVE IN PRIVATE THAN THEY ARE IN PUBLIC OF U.S. POLICY ON THESE THIRD WORLD ISSUES. THE GERMANS, HE QUICKLY ADDED, DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE ISSUES. HE PREDICTED THAT, WHILE THERE WILL BE PRESSURES ON THE ARABS AT THE SPECIAL SESSION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS TO RECYCLE PETRODOLLARS, THE THIRD WORLD WITH MEXICO IN THE LEAD WILL PRESS GERMANY TO RECYCLE ITS MOUNTING CAPITAL RESERVES.

5. ON SELA

LUERS OUTLINED RELAXED U.S. POSITION TOWARDS SELA. ALEJO WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT SELA WOULD COME INTO BEING AT THE PANAMA MEETING IN JULY DESPITE CONSIDERABLE PROBLEMS WITH CERTAIN LATIN COUNTRIES AND SOME LACK OF ENTHUSIASM. HE SAW IT AS A USEFUL ORGAN FOR COORDINATION OF LATIN AMERICAN POLICIES BUT STRESSED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE A VEHICLE FOR CONFRONTATION WITH THE UNITED STATES. LUERS OBSERVED THAT PROLIFERATION OF SUCH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TENDED TO CONSUME THE ENERGIES AND TIME OF KEY LATIN OFFICIALS WHO HAD SERIOUS PROBLEMS AT HOME, NOTING THAT IN A COUNTRY LIKE VENEZUELA COMPETENT MINISTERS ARE OFTEN NOT SUPPORTED BY ADEQUATE CADRE AT SECONDARY LEVELS. ALEJO SMILED

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CRYPTICALLY AND SAID THAT OFFICIALS WHO NORMALLY DID NOTHING MIGHT FIND SELA A VEHICLE FOR GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT.

6. ON MEXICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM. ALEJO SAID MEXICO COULD AVOID EXTREMES OF LEFT AND RIGHT SO LONG AS IT GAVE EMPHASIS TO SOCIAL JUSTICE. A MORE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM (WITH LESS CENTRALIZED POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POWER) WAS NOT ADVISABLE BECAUSE THE U.S. PRESENCE NEXT DOOR THEN WOULD BE

OVERWHELMING. MEXICO MAINTAINED ITS INDEPENDENCE OF ACTION IN PART BECAUSE WHAT POWER IT HAD WAS NOT DIFFUSED.

7. ON FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA: ALEJO SPOKE DISAPARGINGLY IN TONE.

8. ON CO-OPTATION

ALEJO PLACED GREAT STRESS ON THE IMPORTANCE TO MEXICAN POLITICS OF CO-OPTING THREE PERSONALITY TYPES INTO THE SYSTEM. THE THREE TRADITIONAL OBJECTS FOR CO-OPTING WERE: A) SOCIAL REFORMERS; B) SOCIAL CLIMBERS; C) INTELLECUTALS. HE SAID ALL THREE WERE MORE USEFUL WITHIN THE SYSTEM THAN ON THE OUTSIDE AND HE PLACED PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE CAPACITY OF THE INTELLECTUAL TO BE CO-OPTED SINCE HIS HIGHEST OBJECTIVE WAS TO ACHIEVE HOMAGE AND PRAISE. HE INDICATED THAT TO THESE THREE TRADITIONAL TYPES ECHEVERRIA HAD ADDED YOUTH LEADERS WHO COULD BE MOST VALUABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT ON SOCIAL/ECONOMIC REFORM ISSUES SINCE THEY WERE LESS SUSCEPTIBLE TO BUREAUCRATIZATION AND MORE FLEXIBLE ABOUT THEIR FUTURE. ALEJO SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT OF CO-OPTING OF VARIOUS LEADERS WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA IN JUST THESE TERMS. WHEN ASKED WHETHER CERTAIN LEADERS REFUSED TO BE CO-OPTED, ALEJO SAID THAT THEY CERTAINLY DID AND SUCH OUTSIDERS NEEDED TO BE CARED FOR BY THE GOVERNMENT SO AS NOT TO CREATE PROBLEMS.

9. COMMENT AND BIO NOTES: ALEJO IS AN ENGAGING CONVERSATIONALIST CAPABLE OF DISCUSSING IDEAS AT LENGTH; (MOST OF SECOND CONVERSATION WAS WIDE RANGING AND DID NOT DEAL WITH FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS). HE WAS OPEN IN GIVE-AND-TAKE DISCUSSION, NOT PULLING PUNCHERS AND LISTENING ATTENTIVELY TO OPPOSING VIEWS. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH AND PROBABLY COMPREHENDS AT A HIGHER LEVEL. HE PREFERS TO SPEAK SPANISH.
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10. TWO CLOSE ADVISORS (ROMEO FLORES CABALLERO AND MANUEL SUAREZ MIER) HAVE STUDIED EXTENSIVELY IN THE U.S. ALEJO HAS NOT STUDIED IN THE U.S. BUT HAS EXTENSIVE CONTACTS IN THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY (PARTICULARLY AT HARVARD, FORMED THROUGH MEXICAN POET OCTAVIO PAZ). ALEJO LEFT IMPRESSION OF COMBINING AN ESSENTIALLY THIRD WORLD POINT OF VIEW WITH KNOWLEDGE OF DYNAMICS OF U.S. POLICY MAKING AND COMPREHENSION (IF NOT SYMPATHY) OF U.S. ATTITUDES.

1. ALEJO HAS TWO YOUNG DAUGHTERS. FOLLOWING ON A PERIOD OF INTENSIVE FAMILY LIFE, HIS ASSUMING A CABINET OFFICE HAS ALTERED RADICALLY HIS LIFESTYLE AND HAS BEEN HARD ON HIS DAUGHTERS.

12. ALEJO OBVIOUSLY INFLUENCES ECHEVERRIA IN AREAS OUTSIDE THOSE DEFINED IN SEPANAL'S CHARTER. HE COMMENTED THAT THE AND OTHERS "BRAINSTORMED" WITH THE PRESIDENT PRIOR TO IMPORTANT TRIPS AND MEETINGS, INCLUDING THE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD LAST OCTOBER.

ECHEVERRIA TOLD THE AMBASSADOR AND LUERS THAT ALEJO IS A "LEFTIST" BUT BRIGHT AND DOING A GOOD JOB.

13. THE DISCUSSION OF CO-OPTATION WAS INTERESTING, ESPECIALLY SINCE ALEJO IS A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF THIS PHENOMENON (SEVEN YEARS AGO HE WAS A STUDENT LEADER CRITICAL OF THE GOM). THIS WAS EVIDENTLY NOT LOST ON ALEJO, WHO IMPLIED THAT HE HAD CHARACTERISTICS OF THREE OF THE FOUR PERSONALITY TYPES (NOT THE "SOCIAL CLIMBER").
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